

Economic Development

Duluth At Work

Community Development Block Grant funding is used for a portion of the Duluth At Work program. Duluth At Work is an innovative workforce development/poverty reduction model co-facilitated by Duluth LISC and the Community Development office that was started in **2008**. The program strives to increase the incomes of low income individuals by 25% over a three year period. The program is a performance-based program in which agencies receive funding dependent upon benchmarks that each participant hits (e.g. finishing training or staying employed for 12 months).

This program partners with a number of agencies including:

- . CHUM Employment Services
- . CReATE
- . Duluth HRA
- . Growing Neighborhood Businesses
- . MFIP Disparities/Bridge to Employment
- . Minnesota Teen Challenge
- . Neighborhood Youth Services
- . SOAR Career Solutions

The program was started in Duluth in 2008 and since this time has accomplished the following:

Workforce & Employment Projects:

114 individuals are currently enrolled through the nine Duluth at Work projects

82 (72%) have completed or are currently engaged in **work-related trainings**

62 (54%) are **employed**

51 (45%) of participants are **people of color**

Small Business & Entrepreneurial Projects:

285 core neighborhood small

businesses visited by a business developer; 26 of these received technical assistance to strengthen business fundamentals

14 artists are enrolled in the CReATE

Entrepreneurial program and have completed training

11 artists have completed business plans

7 small business owners are enrolled in Growing Neighborhood Businesses and currently participating in group training and individual coaching; all businesses are in the process of refining their individual growth and business plans.



Kenneth “Joe” Brunner visits with Jennifer Young, at a meeting about neighborhood revitalization. Young is a business developer for the Northeast Entrepreneur Fund, and oversees “Growing Neighborhood Businesses.”